

**2024-SIJHSAA**  
**SOFTBALL**  
**EXCEPTIONS TO NFHS RULES**  
**([www.sijhsaa.com](http://www.sijhsaa.com))**



\*The SIJHSAA follows National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules. These are the same that are used by the Illinois High School Athletic Association. The following are exceptions to the NFHS Rules.

1. 12 inch fast pitch softballs will be used in games.
2. The distance between bases shall be 60 ft. and pitching distance 40 ft.
3. **Bat Rules:** May be found on the following site:  
<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-asa/certified-asa-equipment>  
(Bats with the approved ASA/USA Certification Mark on it are legal as long as the bat is on the Approved Bat List. Some bats have been approved in the past and will have the proper certification mark on it, but have been decertified. Both the Approved and Non-Approved Bat lists are on the above mentioned website.
4. **Bat Rule Penalties:** If a player has been found to have an illegal or altered bat during play - the batter will be declared out and restricted to the bench the remainder of the game. This infraction must be administered before the next pitch is thrown. The bat will also be taken out of play.
5. As of July 1, 2009 metal spikes and rubber cleats are permissible during SIJHSAA play.
6. **Jewelry is no longer Prohibited:** However, umpires still have the authority to rule on anything that is considered a distraction or increases risk to any player. (NFHS Softball Rulebook: 3-2-12 / 3-6-11)
7. **On-Deck-Batter:** May use the opposing team's on-deck circle for safety reasons, if umpires deems that their own on-deck circle is too close to home plate.
8. **SIJHSAA Recommends, but does not require:**
  - A. **Time Limits:** No inning should start after 2 hours.
  - B. **International Tie-Breaker:** May be instituted starting the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> Inning.  
\*Time Limits and International Tie-Breaker will not be used in the SIJHSAA Softball State Series
9. **SIJHSAA Mercy Rule: (Baseball and Softball)**
  - 15 Runs after 3 innings
  - 12 Runs after 4 innings
  - 10 Runs after 5 innings
10. **Official Rawlings Softball for SIJHSAA State Series Play:**  
Model Number: RSIJHSAASB (No NFHS Logo Required)

## **COACHES**

- 1. You are responsible to make sure that all your bats and equipment (catchers gear & helmets) are in compliance with NFHS standards.**
- 2. Per NFHS rules in 2013 umpires will ask you at the pre-game conference if your bats and equipment are in compliance. You as coach are responsible to make sure they are in compliance!**
- 3. If your player used an altered or illegal bat, they will be declared out and restricted to the bench the remainder of the game. The bat will also be taken out of play.**
- 4. It is highly advised that coaches get an NFHS Baseball or Softball Rule Book, whichever applies. They can be purchased from the IHSA website ([www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org))**
- 5. Make sure that if time limits and or international tie-breakers are going to be used, they are clarified before the contest starts.**